

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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BUFFALO UNION EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN BLESSED

By Evangelist John R. Rice

"The Christ for Greater Buffalo" evangelistic campaign, in which J. Stratton Shufelt is song leader and I am the evangelist, with services in beautiful Kleinhans Music Hall, near its close, as this is written, Thursday, April 27. It will close next Sunday, April 30th, God willing. Rev. Donald Dibble, United Brethren pastor in charge of records told me yesterday that they had then 739 cards signed to date, not counting those who came forward for dedication of their lives to Christ. Last night there were about thirty more professions. All of these came either in the first clear acceptance of Christ as Savior, or as backsliders returning to serve Christ. Most are straight conversions of people who never before made any profession of faith in Christ.

Pastors seem very happy about the campaign. The attendance is

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The Picture

Below you see a picture of part of the Sunday night audience, April 23rd, in the revival campaign sponsored by churches of many denominations and of none, in the Buffalo area, called THE CHRIST FOR GREATER BUFFALO CAMPAIGN, with the editor of this paper doing the preaching, J. Stratton Shufelt, formerly of Moody Church, Chicago, in charge of music. This crowd came through the rain.

Note that an entire section of the lower floor and an entire section of the balcony, on the right side, could not be shown in this picture. Note that every seat is filled; apparently 3,094 people were there, by count. Nearly 1,200 were in the great balcony. The evangelist preached on "The Torn

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"My Witness Is In Heaven And My Record Is On High" Job 16:19

(Sermon preached October 1, 1943, at Claim Street Baptist Church, Aurora, Illinois. Stenographically reported for *The Sword of the Lord*)

By Evangelist JOE HENRY HANKINS

Our text tonight is the sixteenth chapter of Job, the nineteenth verse, "Also now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and my record is on high."

The way Job happened to speak those words was in answer to criticism by three men who were supposed to be his friends. You remember the story of Job, how the devil came before God one day and said, "Job serves You because You have made him rich."

But God said, "No, he doesn't; Job is an upright man, in all of his ways; a man that fears God and eschews (or hates) evil."

The devil said, "I will show you. If you will let me have a chance at him, and take away his riches from him, he will curse You to Your face."

And God said, "No, he won't."

I. THE DEVIL SIFTS JOB

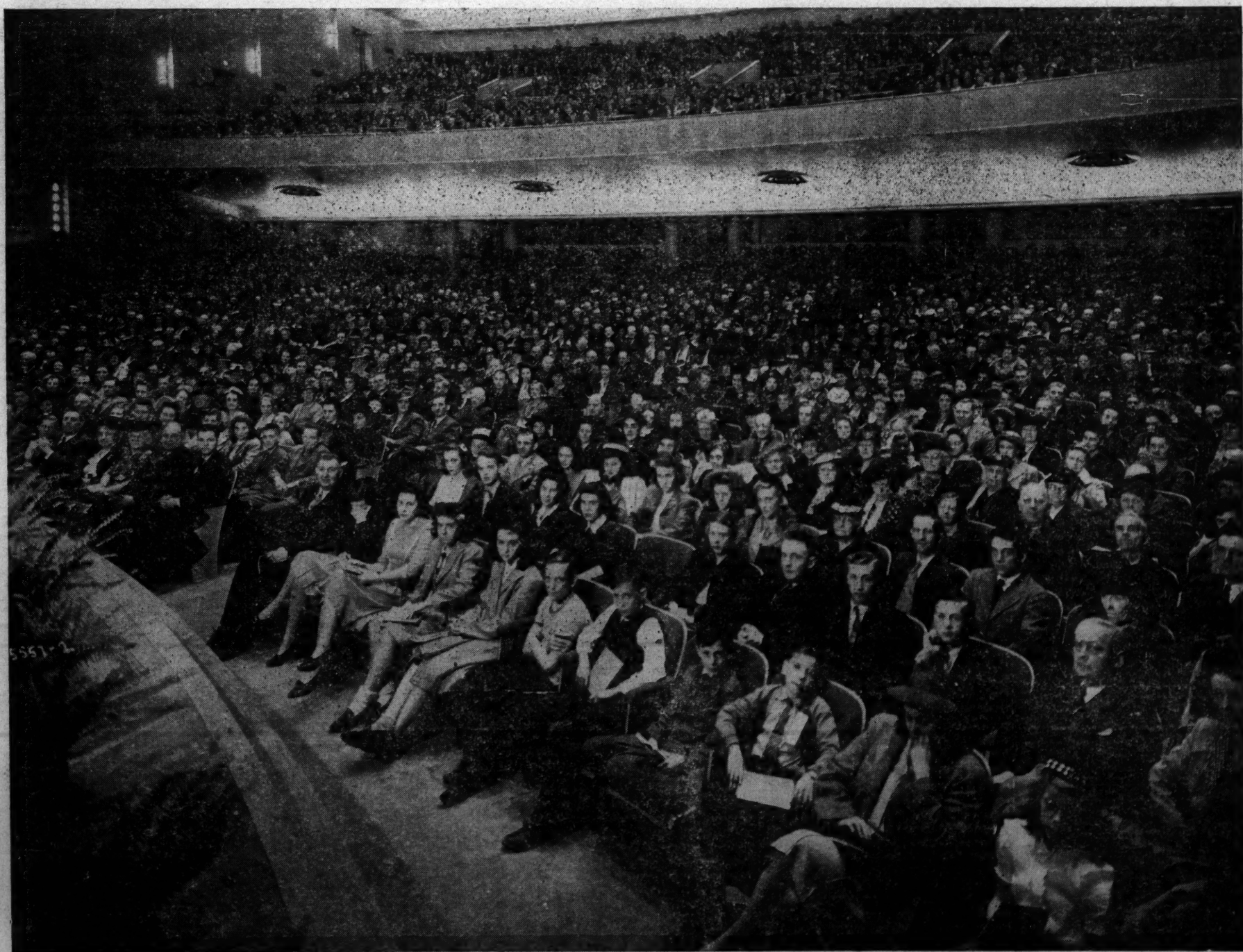
So God permitted the devil to afflict Job. But one of the greatest statements in connection with God's permission for the devil to try his hand on God's servant Job

is that statement where God says, "You can't touch his life." With all that the devil is able to do by way of temptation and hardship and discouragement, and all the things

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Dr. Joe Henry Hankins



"My Witness Is In Heaven And My Record --"

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that he can bring into our lives, thank the Lord, when God says stop, he has to stop. He can go on only so far as God will permit him to go. The devil admitted that himself. The devil said, "Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house?"

I. The devil takes away his wealth and slays his children.

The first thing the devil did, as you recall, was to take away in one stroke everything that Job had. In one day Job was reduced from the richest man in the east to abject poverty. Everything he had was gone. And then the next stroke the devil brought upon Job was to cause a tornado to come and strike the house where Job's ten children were having a feast, and every one of those ten children were killed. Job then had to take those bodies and bury them. As he looked into the dead faces in one grave of all ten of his children and stood in the midst of the wreck of everything he had, the Scripture said, "In all this Job sinned not nor charged God foolishly." But standing there, he said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." I tell you, it takes real religion to do that. The test of our religion is the hour of our sorrow, the time of adversity. If you can stand like that, true to God when the lights go out and you walk in the dark and still say like David, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me"—if you can do that, you know the Lord, and He is real to you. Thank God, multiplied millions, by the grace of God, have been able to do it. I tell you, nothing else in this world means as much to human life as the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. The devil afflicts Job's body.

Then the devil, having failed in that attempt, went back to talk it over with God again, and then he said to God, "I can; I can do it. All that a man hath he will give for his life. Touch his bone and his flesh and he will curse thee to thy face." So God permitted Satan to do this. You know how he afflicted Job's body? He brought a dreaded, terrible disease upon his body so that he broke out with boils from head to foot—not just merely boils that cause pain, but some kind of terrible itching disease that was so awful that he could not even stand clothing on his body, nor stay in the house. So we find Job outside of the house, sitting in an ash heap, with pieces of broken pottery, scratching his body with it, in his awful agony and suffering. His wife came along and said, "Job, if I were you I would curse God and die," inferring that God doesn't care anything about him, or He would never let him suffer like that. Job said, "You talk like a foolish woman talks. Shall we receive good at the hand of God and shall we not receive evil?" In other words, "God has been good to us all our lives and now when the first reverse and sorrow comes, shall we not be able to take that, too, by the grace of God?"

3. Job suffers at the hands of his friends.

And then three of Job's friends hear about his condition and they make a journey across the country coming to comfort Job. When they see him away off, before they get to his place, out there sitting in that ash heap and scraping his body with a potsherd, his condition astounds them so they pick up handfuls of dust and throw it upon their heads. Then they come and just sit down and stare at him

for a solid week! I can imagine them with their mouths gaping and never saying a word! Don't you know there is a lot of comfort in that! "Poor old Job"—but that isn't the worst of it. When they did speak, they just began, one by one, to take poor old Job to pieces. The first one said, "Job, the trouble with you is you have just been a plain old hypocrite all your life. You pretended to be such a man of God and to love God and serve God. There never was anybody who really loved the Lord that a thing like that happened to them. You're just a plain, out and out hypocrite."

When he got through, Job tried to answer him, and then the second one started, and he said, "Job, not only have you been a hypocrite, but you have gotten rich by robbing and cheating other people."

And then when he got through, the third one started in, "Job, on top of all that, you're just a plain liar."

Poor old Job! Think of it! Suffering physical torture, his wife turned against him, misunderstood and falsely accused like that, his poor heart is breaking.

II. JOB CALLS GOD TO WITNESS HIS RECORD

He can't understand, and nobody else could, why all these things, but he said this: "Also now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and my record is on high." What did he mean? He simply meant: "My wife has said God doesn't care anything about me and if she were in my place, she would curse God and die, and you have said that I am a hypocrite, that I am a swindler, that I am a liar, and that there is nothing to my religion, but God knows; God knows all about me."

I. God knows all that is in the heart.

A witness is somebody that knows something about you. Oh, I tell you every child of God in this world that has been really true to God has seen the time when he has been misunderstood, when he has been misjudged, when he has been falsely accused, been persecuted with a sharp tongue, and lies have been told about him that broke his heart. Yes, God has said plainly in His Word, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." The days of persecution haven't ended yet. Some of the hardest persecutions that God's people ever had to take were not being burned at the stake, nor languishing in prison. There have been wounds in the hearts of God's people by others in their own church from which they have carried scars to their graves. The unkindness among brethren and wounds of a careless tongue have caused untold grief. Many times this is because you do not know what is in that person's heart and you do not understand what is back of that life. If we would only take trouble to understand each other and to know something about the battle that goes on in each other's hearts, something about the load the other fellow carries, we would be less likely to criticize if we knew the facts. Oh, when you are disposed to criticize a brother for his stumbling or for his failure, or even if he has gone down in the battle, most likely if you only knew how hard he fought before he went down, you would be ready to render a helping hand instead of criticizing; you would be on your knees praying for him instead of criticizing him. One of the hardest things in the world is to be misunderstood when you are really trying to do the will of God. I think one of the hardest things the Lord ever faced, the One that blessed everybody that he touched, was to have people say, "That Man is possessed with a devil." I think it was much harder than receiving the nails in His hands and in His feet, and the crown of thorns upon His head when He stood outside of Jerusalem and wept over that city—the people to whom He had been sent as their Messiah, and they had rejected Him. There he stands with outstretched hands, with tears raining down his cheeks and we hear Him say, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I



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have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" When you have to face that, friend; oh, what a joy and comfort to know that God doesn't look on the outward appearance but on the heart; that God knows everything that is going on in the heart. Yes, God knows all about it.

2. God has a correct record.

Not only does God know all about it, but as Job said, "God has a record of it and one day the record will tell the story." "My witness is on high." Yes, it will tell the story on high." Yes, I will tell the story. To a child of God who is really trying to do the Master's will, fighting against fearful weaknesses many times and goes down and has to get up and try again—I tell you, it is a joy to know that my Lord understands the yearning of my heart, the battle of my soul, and the longings, maybe, that are never realized. Thank God, He knows all about it. I think so many times about what Jesus said in the message to the churches in Revelation, "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." God knows that name on that white stone. Well, I think it is this: my name here is what people know about me; my name over yonder is what God knows about me. My name here is what I have been able to accomplish, the results that people can see, but my name over yonder is what I longed and tried and struggled to do, but couldn't do. God has a record of all that. And one day, thank God, the record will be revealed. And in God's storehouse, in God's treasure chest there is going to be many a widow's mite, many a cup of cold water and many a tear that has been bottled up and kept. Do you know that God keeps in a bottle even the tears of saints that are shed over a lost world and in their sufferings for Him. God has bottled and kept them and one day they are going to be brought out and rewarded. Neither are any of the prayers of God's saints forgotten: even those we think have never been heard. One of these days, when Christ mounts the throne of glory, as John saw in the Revelation, the prayers of the saints will be presented to Him. In the end of this age, John said, "Another angel came and stood before the altar, having a golden censor; and there was given unto him much incense that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints." Not a one of them has been forgotten. Isn't God wonderful? In the great eternal purpose of God and in his loving heart, He doesn't forget or overlook a thing.

3. Everyone must face his record some day

But listen, to that person who claims to be a child of God and is playing at the task, fooling yourself about your own consecration, telling yourself that you are doing the best you can, when deep down in your heart you are just playing at the job: telling yourself God is first, when if you are honest with yourself, God is way down the line. This is a startling thought. When you tell yourself he has your first

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love, remember that the greatest commandment is "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength." Have you been trying to tell yourself, "I love Him that way," and all the time you have been treating God like a tramp at your back door? That is the way a lot of people have been treating Him, too. You know what I mean by that? When a tramp comes to your back door asking for food, you don't give him that which you have prepared for your family. You give him the leftovers. That is exactly the way we have been treating God and trying to tell ourselves we love Him. Many of us sit in the congregation Sunday morning and sing, "My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine, for Thee all the follies of sin I resign," and so on we go, "If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now," and then live for the devil all the week. You may be fooling yourself, and you may fool your

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THE SWORD OF THE LORD

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Buffalo Union Evangelistic Campaign Blessed

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good, averaging over 1,800 each night since the campaign began, with crowds actually counted each night. 3,094 attended last Sunday night's service in a downpour of rain. The average this, the last week, will be higher than last week, we believe.

Many Old People Being Saved

We have seen many remarkable conversions. One woman who gave her age as 70 said to me when she took my hand in coming to confess Christ; "My daughter is a Christian, and has prayed for me for years. Now I am coming tonight to answer my daughter's prayers!" How different from the usual case, where mothers pray for daughters to be saved!

Last Friday night the first one to come to accept Christ was an old white-headed man. He told me, "I have been bothered about this. I have been praying several nights now." He was glad to get it settled. He had bought, I suppose, the new Bible he had with him, in the last few days. We sent him, as is my custom, to the inquiry room where pastors and other trained personal workers show those who come to accept Christ the scriptures, answer any questions, and pray with them. He came back after a while and waited before me till I could get time from the invitation to see what he wanted. In his new Bible he had written in his shaky hand; "I was saved April 22, 1944, at Kleinhans Music Hall, aged 85." Praise God for a brand from the burning!

A number of other old people have been saved. And the power of God has been so great that somehow it has been easy, they understood the way easily. A remarkable thing is that many of these old people have no church preference at all, having no contacts with any church. On the record card I prepared for use in getting names, addresses, whether the decision is a first profession of faith or that of a confessed backslider, and the age group, I have insisted that church preference be given, and workers have been carefully instructed in this. But many simply have no preference. They never go to church, many of them have no one in the family who goes to church. Today Brother Dibble showed me a stack of cards which he said were near 200, he thought, on which there was no church preference given. This indicates that many are being saved in Kleinhans Music Hall in a big union campaign, city wide, who would never have been reached for Christ and Heaven in any single church campaign. We can never shake the cities except in union campaigns.

Hard Cases Saved

We have had many converts who would have been thought unlikely to come to Christ. The same night the man 85 years old was saved a young and beautiful Jewess lady was saved. The same night two soldiers were saved, one white, one colored. The same night an attractive woman of apparent culture was saved who has long been a member of a church that is out and out modernistic. When I took her hand, as she came forward after the sermon on the text, "The master is come and calleth for thee," I said to her, "Has God been calling you?" and she replied with tears, "Oh, a long, long time!" Sunday night back she came, bringing her son to Christ, very, very happy.

Last night an old man held his hand for prayer, then, encouraged by a pastor, he came down to take my hand. Long ago he had been saved but now for many years he had lived in sin, he confessed to me. I had preached on "All Have Sinned and Come Short of the Glory of God", so when he came I asked him, "Are you willing to confess your sin to God, and admit that you cannot deserve salvation?" He said he certainly was. "Then do you believe that Christ died to save sinners, and forgives them freely when they repent and trust Him?" I asked. Yes, he did, he said, and added, "And that just suits my case!" Later I learned that he was 84 years old.

A woman was saved the other night who was 75 years old. Many, many middle-aged people are finding Christ.

Nearly every night Catholics are among those saved. Remember

that my booklet, "What Must I Do To Be Saved?" was put in nearly every home in this great city, so largely Catholic. They come to this big public meeting place as they would not go at first to a Protestant church.

The three Wednesdays of the campaign we have had all-night prayer meetings, at St. Luke's Evangelical and Reformed Church, at Pilgrim Christian Tabernacle, and at the First Baptist Church. I suggested one, the people demanded the others. At a neighboring town a church, because of the burden of some members, had an all-night prayer meeting for those who could not come to the one in downtown Buffalo. Pastors in another section are planning another. Two of the prayer meetings lasted till 6:00 a.m., the other, last night, till 5:00 a.m. Many pastors take part, there are many confessions, scriptures, praises, and long seasons of prayer, again and again through the night.

City Wide Indications of Revival

There are many evidences of a blessed, unusual and powerful revival in the hearts of preachers and churches. Monday pastors, in the noon meeting with laymen at the Y. M. C. A. were rejoicing. Many pastors say they never expect to be the same again. Many pastor's reported conversions in their morning services. In some cases people who have never been to the churches came Sunday morning, influenced by the revival, or brought by revived and burdened members, and were saved the first time they came to the church.

There is under way a reorganization of the Buffalo Bible school by the men sponsoring this campaign and a greatly increased usefulness seems just ahead.

The Federal Council of Churches in Buffalo have a budget of \$10,000 a year, which, in twelve months they can hardly raise, and officials are astonished that this group of Bible believers raised over that amount for this campaign before it even began!

Last night after the invitation to sinners, after 51 had come to accept Christ as Savior or returned from a life of backsliding, I felt impressed to give an invitation for young people to come and lay all on the altar if they felt clearly led to surrender for fulltime service. Fifteen or more came, I think, on that proposition, the cream of the churches.

Mr. Shufelt and I stay at the Statler Hotel. (I felt it too expensive but the committee said they had special arrangements, and insisted.) The other night as a pastor brought us back to the hotel he brought a young woman who has been converted in the campaign. She tells us she plans to leave her job and go to the Christian and Missionary Institute for Christian training. She got out at the hotel too, and we discovered she was the hat check girl in the Statler Lounge bar! Now she plans to be a missionary. So all over the city the revival fires run.

And beyond the city, too they run. One man, a Sunday School teacher in another city, brought his entire Sunday School class of seven boys to the services. Five of them were converted that night!

One entire row of young women came together to trust in Christ. It seems they agreed together it was the right thing to do.

A boy fourteen found Christ the other day, Sunday afternoon. He seemed very happy in the Lord. But his mother came to tell me she found him crying into his pillow one night. "Why son, I thought it was all settled, and you were happy," she said. "It is, Mom. I am not crying about myself but about the other boys," he said, and as I recall, she said he named two of them. He is in the eighth grade, and tried to win other boys there, fourteen and fifteen, and they laughed at him because he would not smoke and drink! And he, moved by the Holy Spirit to try to win them, wept over them at night! God bring that upon others!

Knowing how the other boys were watching him, the same lad said to his mother, "Mother, you can't be a sinner all your life till today and suddenly live like a Christian, when you have been doing wrong all the time. So now you'll have to watch me and punish me every time I do wrong." "But I have been thinking maybe

The Picture

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Veil." There were 76 public professions of faith, I understand.

Kleinhans Music Hall is often called the most beautiful auditorium in America. The acoustical properties of the hall are marvelous. We discarded the public system right away, and were heard in the back seats with greatest ease.

Another picture, taken from the balcony, showing the large choir and platform, two grand pianos, 30 ministers and the evangelist and singer, will be published, God willing, next week, with further report of the blessed campaign, and final results, if we can get reports ready in time, with impressions of some ministers.

I was too strict with you," the mother said. "No, you just punished me part of the time. Now you'll have to punish me every time, so I'll quit everything wrong," he replied.

A little girl five or six claimed Christ in a great children's meeting, when 2,600 people were present. Though she came of her own choice, and was very carefully taught, the family was mildly skeptical about her conversion, until they sat down at the dinner table and the child faced the matter of eating her vegetables! "I am going to eat my spinach without any scolding, Mother," she said. "It is a sin to complain and cause trouble!" She had gotten the lesson of the sermon about the fiery serpents in the wilderness, and that the reason the people complained was because they were bitten with the serpent of sin, and needed to be born again. Many striking incidents show that the Holy Spirit is doing a marvelous work among young and old.

Distinguished Ministers Visit the Campaign

From many nearby cities, as well as from Buffalo, ministers come to see the great crowds, see the wonderful conversions. Usually about 30 local ministers sit on the platform. Ministers do the very finest personal work, going at once upon the invitation to interested people who need Christ, and bringing them to me at the front. Then other ministers and specially selected and trained workers deal with the converts in the inquiry room. Cooperation and fellowship between ministers of nearly all faiths is refreshing and sweet, both a cause and a result of the great union campaign. I can truthfully say that my preaching is just as clear and sharp and scriptural as if I were in one local church of my own faith. But the campaign is so centered on soul-winning and on the really essential truths upon which evangelical people are agreed, that there is perfect harmony. Oh, for the Christian unity on the blood and soul-winning that will bring great revivals everywhere!

Among distinguished visitors, coming to Buffalo specially to visit this great campaign, I might mention Rev. Horace Dean, Director of CHRIST FOR AMERICA, large organization promoting revival; Dr. P. W. Philpot, evangelist, former pastor of Moody Church, Chicago, and of the Church of the Open Door, Los Angeles; and Dr. J. Elwin Wright, secretary for the nation-wide ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS FOR UNITED ACTION. We believe that the outcome of this great campaign will be watched with deepest interest all over America, and that God willing, many other cities will want such campaigns, seeing God's great blessing.

Mr. Shufelt and I go May 7-21 to the large First Baptist Church of Fairfield, Alabama. There we need your prayers, and earnestly request them.

Elsewhere in this paper see the picture of the great crowds at Kleinhans Music Hall, and article copied from the Buffalo Evening News about the Tuesday night service when 51 came out to confess Christ after the sermon on "How a Devil-Possessed Fortune Teller Got Two Preachers in Jail and What Came of It," and many other young people came to surrender for full-time Christian service.

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As Buffalo Reporter Sees A Revival Service

(Article copied from Buffalo Evening News, Wednesday, April 26, giving a news reporter's impression of the service Tuesday night.)

Literally a mighty spiritual hand, in the personage of a straight forward, plain-talking Texas preacher, Dr. John R. Rice, reached out over 2000 persons in Kleinhans Music Hall Tuesday evening and gripped them in the belief: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

"Don't get baptized or join the church to be saved," he warned mothers with babies in their arms, young people with expressions of hope, adults with grim determination, servicemen scattered throughout and numerous groups of Sunday School classes. "Down in Texas where I come from we don't bury a man until he's dead."

"But the moment you put your trust in Jesus Christ, you've got salvation and your name is written down in heaven. To know that Jesus is the Son of God is no kind of belief. A lot of demons in hell believe that."

Put Trust in Jesus

"You believe the bank is good—and all the time you're putting money in a sock under the mattress. Believing in a fact is one thing—putting your trust in Him is another."

"Just turn your case over to Him now. He loves you. He died for you." Then, resting his elbow on the pulpit—and speaking as though he were talking to an individual instead of a crowd—the friendly clergyman intently said: "It's wonderful what God does," and questioned, "Isn't it?" There arose a chorused affirmative reply, "Yes!"

"God never intended for a Christian to have easy sailing all the time. Let me tell you right now, if you don't suffer for Jesus you'll never have much rejoicing. When you serve the Lord you may get into trouble but, brother, sit still—don't rock the boat and you'll get out. If you talk much about the Lord, people will say you're 'cracked'."

Trophy From God

"But go ahead and suffer some for Jesus and you'll get a trophy from God," he advised those present, who signified their agreement with one word, "Amen."

"I just wish I had time to read every scripture in the Bible to you as he brought a few passages from John and Acts to the attention of the group, many of whom simultaneously opened their Bibles."

"He that believeth in Him is not condemned—he that believeth in the Son has everlasting life—he that heareth my words has everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation—whosoever believeth in Him shall have remission in sins," he read.

6522 CONVERSIONS AND ADDITIONS TO BAPTIST CHURCHES IN SIX COUNTY-WIDE APPEL MAN CAMPAIGNS IN MISSISSIPPI

Baptist leaders in Mississippi arranged to have evangelist Hyman Appelman in six campaigns, two weeks in each of six important centers, sponsored by the Baptist churches of that county or area, in each case. Since always, among Southern Baptists, conversions and church membership are kept clearly distinct, it is not amiss to receive members and count them, in revival campaigns, as well as conversions. New church members, when they are saved people, are a legitimate measure of the blessings of a great campaign, hence they are mentioned here. The report of these great campaigns are blessed.

To the glory of God, in the last two revivals, upon the double invitation to accept Christ as Savior or to come into the church upon transfer of membership, there were 759 conversions and additions in New Albany, Mississippi, and 1,252 conversions and additions in Clarksdale, Mississippi. In the twelve weeks, the six two-weeks meetings of this Mississippi for Christ crusade, there were 6572 conversions and additions. The Mississippi Baptist Convention, as well as many individual churches in cities of that state, have arranged for Appelman to come back in 1946.

Stepping out of his role as a preacher, Dr. Rice paced across the platform with his head bowed and climaxed a spirited sermon in the Christ For Greater Buffalo Campaign with the statement, "I'm a poor lonely sinner. What must I do to be saved?"

Fortune-Telling Denounced

Immediately the audience shouted the answer: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

Sharply denouncing fortune-telling, a spiritualist seance or astrology as a form of religion or belief of Christians, he boldly stated, "Anybody in the fortune-telling business is nothing but a dirty fraud and any who have ever been to a fortune-teller ought to get down on their knees and beg forgiveness from God."

"It is the religion of Hitler. It has nothing to do with Christianity and is no better than any kind of idolry which God hates," he vehemently declared, stamping his foot.

As he concluded his talk, he requested that the audience bow their heads in meditation and any who wished to be saved raise their hands. At least 75 hands shot up.

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(Continued from page two)

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WOMAN HELPED BY "BOBBED HAIR, BOSSY WIVES AND WOMEN PREACHERS"

"Dear Dr. Rice: "Your book on *Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives and Women Preachers* has helped me, oh, so much. I read it first, and Dr. Rice, I was alone the night I read it, and I could see myself as I read on and on, and I began to cry, for I knew I had failed my husband, but most of all my God. I read it twice; 'the bossy wives'—I couldn't believe that those Scriptures meant what they said, but my heart was open and God knew that I loved Him and wanted to do His will. Thank God for that book and for God's Word. I believe my husband will be saved now. . . ."

"Im letting my hair grow long. "Your friend, Mrs. S. K. . . . E. St. Louis, Ill."

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"My Witness Is In Heaven And My Record —

(Continued from page two)

pastor and you may fool members of your church, but you're not putting anything over on God. He knows all about it. I tell you that to the person who is just doing enough to be respectable in the church, and in whose life the Lord isn't first—I tell you it is a startling thing when you think that God is keeping a record and everything in your life and heart is going on that record and one day you are going to face it all again. When you face your record, your Sunday morning headaches are going to look mighty sorry and shabby. Some of the excuses you have made for your sorry Christian lives, lack of loyalty to your church and your failure to serve the Lord are going to look mighty shabby then. Some of the things that members of this church did during the revival are going to look mighty shabby when the records are unfolded. But you are going to face it again and God has the record just as you have made. Jesus said, "In the day of judgment men shall give account for every idle word they speak." Do you believe that? Every idle word! Jesus said God knows you so intimately that every hair of your head is numbered. Some excuses that we put up for our sorry lives and our sorry service to the Lord and our sorry, half-hearted church going; some of the excuses we put up for being away from the house of God, and some of the things we do with our money while the cause of Christ suffers, those things are going to look mighty sorry when the record book is opened. O God, what will the record be? What will it reveal?

III: I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THAT RECORD.

I. First I want to know my name is written there.

As the choir a moment ago sang, "Will your name be written there? On its pages bright and fair,"—you know, I am concerned about that. I am tremendously concerned about that in my own case. If God is keeping a record like that, I want to know that my name has been written in the Lamb's book of life. Why? Because God says in the twenty-first chapter of Revelation in describing the holy City, the new Jerusalem that John saw coming down from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband, that glorious home of the soul where God will wipe away all tears from our eyes, God said, "And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth neither whatsoever worketh abomination or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." When he describes that awful hour when sinners come to the judgment of the great white throne; when the dead, both small and great, stand before the throne and the books are opened, and another book is opened, which is the book of life, and the dead are judged out of those things written in the book, then he says, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death." I tell you, my friend, I am tremendously concerned to know that my name is written there.

I ask people, "Are you saved?" and they say, "Well, I hope so." And they don't seem so particularly concerned about whether they are saved or not. "I hope so," or "I am trying to be," or "I am doing the best I can." If that is your hope of salvation you have condemned yourself right on your own statement, because you know you are not doing the best you can and you know that no person in the world ever did the best he could. Am I right? So if your hope of eternity and your hope of Heaven is in doing the best you can, you have already sent yourself to Hell on your own testimony.

And then there are others I ask if they are saved, and they say, "Well, I think if you treat people right and live by the golden rule, pay your honest debts, take care of your family, be clean in your life, then everything is all right." Listen, your soul and Heaven and Hell are in the balance and you will take a stand on a thing like that! You won't find any promise in this Book anywhere to anybody of eternal life on that basis. If I

were going to cross the Mississippi River down yonder about Memphis where that great river is one of the deepest, widest rivers in the world—there is a great steel and concrete bridge built across that Father of waters and if I were going to cross that river and here by the side of the big steel and concrete bridge is a little rickety foot bridge and I start over on the little rickety bridge and you stop me and say, "Nobody has ever crossed over safely on that bridge. Look at the holes in it. Look at the condition of it." I say "Well, I am going to take a chance."

You say, "Why take a chance? Look at the big steel and concrete structure here. Look at the automobiles and trucks, hundreds of them going across there, look what a load they carry, and loaded trucks and automobiles go over there by the hundreds every day and every one gets safely over."

But I say, "I am going to try the little bridge. I think I can make it. Nobody has ever made it, but I think I can." You would say I was crazy, and I would be. But that would be wisdom compared to a person who has the offer of Jesus Christ and His salvation and His promise of eternal life and still chooses to try the little foot bridge of morality and good works. In the first place I want to ask you this question: Why do you want some other way? Isn't Jesus good enough for you? I can't understand why people who say they believe the Bible will go on and try to get to Heaven some other way.

Brother, I want to know that I am saved. I'll tell you why. If I miss Heaven, I have missed everything. It doesn't make any difference how honest I am, how sincere I am; God has not promised to save me on my sincerity or on my honesty. You won't find it in the Book. For that reason I am not going to depend upon it. It makes no difference how moral I am, how clean I am, how wonderful I am to other people, nor what kind of life I live. God has not promised salvation upon these things. Therefore, I am not going to risk my soul upon something God hasn't definitely promised will save a soul, because Heaven and Hell are in the issue and if I miss salvation and come to the end and find, after it is too late that I was wrong and land in Hell, then I am lost it all. I want to know that I am saved. And because I don't want to know, I repeat, I am not going to trust one iota in anything the Lord doesn't promise will save. People may trust church membership if they want to (and some people you can't keep from it); they may trust the church and baptism and their faithfulness to the church vows and church obligations; they may trust in the ordinances, they may trust in morality and good works if they want to, but I am not going to put one iota of trust in those things for the Scripture doesn't promise salvation on any of them or all of them. Salvation is not in church membership, not in ordinances, not living up to this, that, and the other. The Bible says that salvation is in the name of Jesus Christ. "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." My soul is at stake, and I want to know I am saved. I tell you what I am trusting in and that alone. I am doing my dead-level best to work for the Lord but I am not trusting in that to save me. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us." I want to be trusting in One alone when I go to meet the Lord, and when the record books are opened and all my sins are there. When God opens the record that day, I won't try to deny a single one of my sins or excuse myself for a single one of them. I will confess every sin to God and I will stand before God and say, "Lord, I am guilty, but if you look in here (pointing to heart) you will find the blood of Jesus Christ, for I have trusted it with all my heart and soul, ever since I was a little eleven-year old country boy." And, my friends, if the blood of Jesus Christ won't save a sinner, then I am going to Hell, for I am depending upon that alone and putting all my trust in that one thing. But thank God, His blessed Word says, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son

cleanseth us from all sin." "And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are," said God, back yonder in Egypt when the death angel was to pass through the land. That blood in Egypt was a type of the blood of Christ. If the blood was a token for me, then the blood is a token for me. When God sees the blood, oh, my friend, that settles it. In the great day of God's judgment He will not be looking for morality, He will not be looking for good works, He will not be looking for character, but He will be looking for blood. The blood is a token, and when He sees the blood, He will pass over you.

I know I am saved. When I say that it isn't boasting. If I am not saved, God is a liar, and I say that reverently. When He promised salvation through Jesus Christ, He put Himself on oath and because there was no greater to swear by, God swore by Himself. God swore "by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, in order that we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast." Before a soul can trust in Jesus Christ and not be saved, before a sinner can repent of his sins and flee to Christ for refuge and not be saved, before a sinner can turn to the Lord Jesus Christ by faith and not be saved, God must first perjure His oath and break His promise. God has to lie outright; yes, God has to cease to exist before I will be lost when I am trusting in Christ. The form of God's oath when He swore to Abraham was "As I live." That is, "as long as I live." Yes, as long as God lives there will never be a sinner but that will turn to Christ for salvation and fail to find it. That is the kind of foundation I want when my soul is at stake. I want to know. And I can stand with Paul confidently upon the Word of God and shout to the world, "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

In a hospital room not so many months ago I was talking to an unsaved man. While explaining to him the plan of salvation in Christ I gave him that Scripture and said, "Now here is where Paul told his experience of salvation in one little sentence, 'I know whom I have believed,' not 'what I have done.' Notice, he didn't say, 'What.' Salvation is not in a what. Paul didn't say, 'I know what kind of man I've been, I know what kind of life I've lived,' but he said, 'I know in whom I have trusted and I am fully convinced, (for that is what that word *persuaded* means) I am convinced beyond any shadow of a doubt that he is able to keep that which I have intrusted unto Him against that day.'" What day? When the Bible uses that word "that day" God means the day when the Lord Jesus shall come back in His glory; "He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day," the day when the angel shall stand with one foot on the land one on the sea and declare that time shall be no more: "He is able to keep that which I have intrusted to Him against that day." I explained that to that unsaved man and said, "Do you understand that?"

He said, "I do. It is simple. Paul meant that he had put his trust in Jesus Christ and had passed himself over to Christ."

I said, "Man, I never heard a theologian give a better explanation than that, and you an unsaved man!"

He looked up at me with tears of joy and said, "You mean, I was an unsaved man, but I am not now. The moment God flashed that light into my soul, I put my trust in Him, and passed myself over to Him and I am saved." Friend, I want to know that I am saved, and thank God, I do know.

2. I want the record to show that I have been an obedient child of God.

And then let's see one more thing. Not only do I want to know that it is on the record yonder, that I have really been saved, but I want it on the record that I have done my best to be an obedient child of God; that I have honestly tried to do His will. Oh, this careless unconcerned way that those who name the name of Christ

trample His will and His word under their feet; go on as though He had not spoken, disregarding His will for their lives; never earnestly and honestly seeking to know the will of God as it is revealed in His Word. They go on as though the Lord had not spoken, go on in disobedience, go on wasting their lives, go on willfully trampling the Word of God under their feet. Oh friend you can do that and have that on your record if you want to, but I don't want such on mine. When I face my record I want it written there that I honestly tried to do the will of the Lord and obey His commands.

One of the happiest moments of my life was when I was home for Christmas some years ago. That little mother of mine had been on the sick-bed for many months. She had been just at the edge of the river for months and months. I went home that year to spend the holidays with her. I didn't want to go anywhere. I just wanted to sit around that bed. Dad would say, "Son, don't you want to go to town with me?" I would say, "No, Dad, I just want to stay here." For two weeks I sat around that bedside. The day came when we must go home the next morning. That night while the rest of the family sat around the fireside, I slipped away and back into that sick room and locked the door. I wanted to be alone with mother that night. I walked over and knelt by the side of her bed. I was having the hardest fight of my life out yonder in west Texas against the liquor crowd. They were doing their best to crucify me. I walked over to that bedside and knelt there. I said, "Mother, I am having the hardest fight of my life for the Lord, and before I leave, I just wanted this one more time you to put your hands on my head like you used to do when I was a little boy, and talk

to God about me." My mother turned over to the edge of the bed and took my face in her two hands and just covered it with kisses and wet it with her tears. She said, "Sonny boy, I am going to pray for you in just a moment, but before I do, Mother wants to tell you something. I know why you have hung around this bed all during the holidays, and I know why you came in here tonight and locked the door. You have been thinking the same thing Mother has been thinking, that maybe this is the last night we'll have on earth together. And the way Mother feels now, I don't believe I will be here when you come back home again. But before I pray for you, I want to whisper something to you," and she whispered this: "Son, you have been the most obedient child Mother has. You have never given Mother a moment's trouble or heartache. You have been a joy to me all your life." You know what I did? I reached into that bed, under those covers and took that little withered body in my arms and held it up close to my heart and covered her face with my kisses and tears of gratitude and said, "Mother, I would rather hear you say that than to give me a million dollars tonight." And I meant it. I meant every word of it. But listen, friend, I would a million times rather hear my Lord say one day, "You have been an obedient child. You have tried to please me. You have tried to do My will." Wouldn't you?

"My witness is in Heaven and my record is on high," and I am going to face it someday. "For everyone of us must give an account of himself to God." Do you believe that? Oh, friend, if you do, what about the way you are living; what about the way you are treating God?

BOBBED HAIR, BOSSY WIVES and WOMEN PREACHERS

Popular Book By Evangelist John R. Rice
Second Edition; 23,000 Now Printed

Christian woman, girl, did you know that in the Bible long hair for a woman has a spiritual significance, and that bobbed, or cut hair has a spiritual significance? Long hair signifies submission to the authority God has placed over you in your husband or father. Bobbed hair signifies rebellion against that authority and against God. What is your attitude? What does your hair say to God and to the angels as to your attitude toward these commands of His? "For this cause ought the woman to have a sign of authority on her head because of the angels" (1 Cor. 11:10, R. V.)

Not only should a Christian woman or girl wear a sign on her head that she is subject to her husband or father, but she should really be subject. The second section of this book shows God's way for a woman to have a happy home with the love and respect of her husband and children. It works! It may prevent your home from going on the rocks.

God does not call everybody to public preaching, and He never calls women. Learn the Bible reason why and be a better servant of God in your own sphere. This book, written in love and with a real concern for women to be their best for God and for their families and for themselves, has helped many a woman to remove the hindrances that have been blocking her prayers and blighting her influence, and to have the happiness in her home and in her Christian life and service for which she had longed.

In a letter received today from Massachusetts, a Christian woman wrote:

"About a year ago our pastor gave me the book to read 'Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives, and Women Preachers,' that since I have heeded God's Word in my life as a wife, it has changed my life completely and I can honestly say our marriage has been ever so happy."

75¢ may save your home and happiness. Get this book and find God's way for you. Every young person contemplating marriage should have it. Give it to newly-weds and older ones, too.

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